



Uvalde report: 400 officers but 'egregiously poor' decisions



Texas House investigative committee chairman Rep. Dustin Burrows holds a copy of its full report on the shootings at Robb Elementary School as the committee meets, Sunday, July 17, 2022, in Uvalde, Texas.

Associated Press



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Panel: Hearing to show Trump's Jan. 6 'dereliction of duty'

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee's prime-time hearing Thursday will offer the most compelling evidence yet of then-President Donald Trump's "dereliction of duty" on the day of the Jan. 6 insurrection, with new witnesses detailing his failure to stem an angry mob storming the Capitol, committee members said Sunday.

"This is going to open people's eyes in a big way," said Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., a member of the House committee investigating the riot who will help lead Thursday's session with Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va. "The president didn't do anything."

After a year-long investi-



From left, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., staff counsel Dan George, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., Vice Chair Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., staff counsel Candyce Phoenix, Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., and Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., sit on the dais as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

Associated Press

gation, the House Jan. 6 panel is seeking to wrap up what may be its last hearing, even as its probe con-

tinues to heat up.

The committee says it continues to receive fresh evidence each day and isn't ruling out additional hearings or interviews with a bevy of additional people close to the president. One such figure is Steve Bannon, whose trial begins this week on criminal contempt of Congress charges for refusing to comply with the House committee's subpoena.

The committee also issued an extraordinary subpoena last week to the Secret Service to produce texts by Tuesday from Jan. 5 and Jan. 6, 2021, following conflicting reports about whether they were deleted.

But panel members say Thursday's hearing will be the most specific to date in laying out and weaving together previously known details on how Trump's actions were at odds with his constitutional legal duty to stop the Jan. 6 riot. Unlike members of the public who generally have no duty to take action to prevent a crime, the Constitution requires a president to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

"The commander in chief is the only person in the Constitution whose duty is explicitly laid out to ensure that the laws are faithfully executed," Luria said. "I look at it as a dereliction of duty. (Trump) didn't act. He had a duty to act."

Thursday's hearing will be the first in the prime-time slot since the June 9 debut that was viewed by an estimated 20 million people. Luria said the hearing will highlight additional testimony from White House counsel Pat Cipollone and other witnesses, not yet seen before, "who will add a lot of value and information to the events of that critical time on January 6." She cited Trump's inaction that day for more than three hours, along with a tweet that afternoon criticizing Vice President Mike Pence for lacking courage to contest Democrat Joe Biden's win in the 2020 presidential election that may

have served to egg on the mob. "We will go through pretty much minute by minute during that time frame, from the time he left the stage at the Ellipse, came back to the White House, and really sat in the White House, in the dining room, with his advisers urging him continuously to take action, to take more action," Luria said.

The hearing comes at a critical juncture point for the panel, which is racing to wrap up findings for a final report this fall. The committee had originally expected at this point to be concluding much of its investigation with a final hearing but is now considering possible options for additional interviews and hearings, panel members said.

"This investigation is very much ongoing," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif. "The fact that a series of hearings is going to be concluded this Thursday doesn't mean that our investigation is over. It's very active, new witnesses are coming forward, additional information is coming forward." For instance, the committee took a rare step last week in issuing a subpoena to the Secret Service, an executive branch department. That came after it received a closed briefing from the Homeland Security Department watchdog that the Secret Service had deleted texts from around Jan. 6, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The finding raised the startling prospect of lost evidence that could shed further light on Trump's actions during the insurrection, particularly after earlier testimony about his confrontation with security as he tried to join supporters at the Capitol.

"That's what we have to get to the bottom of," said Luria, regarding possibly missing texts. "Where are these text messages? Can they be recovered? And we have subpoenaed them because they're legal records that we need to see for the committee." □

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U.S. agencies temporarily barred from enforcing LGBTQ guidance

By **MARK GILLISPIE**
Associated Press

A judge in Tennessee has temporarily barred two federal agencies from enforcing directives issued by President Joe Biden's administration that extended protections for LGBTQ people in schools and workplaces. U.S. District Judge Charles Atchley Jr. in an order on Friday ruled for the 20 state attorneys general who sued last August claiming the Biden administration directives infringe on states' right to enact laws that, for example, prevent students from participating in sports based on their gender identity or requiring schools and businesses to provide bathrooms and showers to accommodate transgender people.

Atchley, appointed by President Donald Trump in 2020, agreed with the attorneys generals' argument and issued a temporary injunction that prevents the agencies from applying that guidance on LGBTQ discrimination until the matter can be resolved by courts. "As demonstrated above, the harm alleged by Plaintiff States is already occurring — their sovereign power to enforce their own legal code is hampered by the issuance of Defendants' guidance and they face substantial pressure to change their state laws as a result," Atchley wrote.

The attorneys general are from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Okla-

ma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia.

The directives regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation was issued by the U.S. Department of Education and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in June following a landmark civil rights decision by U.S. Supreme Court in 2020 that, under a provision called Title VII, protects gay, lesbian and transgender people from discrimination in the workplace.

The Department of Education guidance from June 2021 said discrimination based on a student's sexual orientation or gender identity would be treated as a violation of Title IX, the 1972 federal law that protects sex discrimination in education. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released guidance that month about what could constitute discrimination against LGBTQ people and advised the public about how to file a complaint. With its guidance, the Biden administration in part took a stand against laws and proposals in a growing number of states that aim to forbid transgender girls from participating on female sports teams. The state attorneys general contend that the authority over such policies "properly belongs to Congress, the States, and the people."

The education policy carried the possibility of federal sanctions against schools and colleges that fail to protect gay and

transgender students.

The attorneys general argued that a delaying a legal review of the directives would "cause them significant hardship, as Defendants would be allowed to use the 'fear of future sanctions' to force 'immediate compliance' with the challenged guidance," Atchley wrote. "The Court finds that Plaintiffs have shown a credible threat of enforcement," Atchley wrote. "Plaintiffs highlight that private litigants are relying on Defendants' guidance to challenge Plaintiffs' state



In this Oct. 8, 2019, photo, supporters of LGBTQ rights stage a protest on the street in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington.

Associated Press

laws." Atchley noted that the U.S. Department of Education has filed a statement of interest in a West Virginia lawsuit taking a

position that Title IX prohibits the state from excluding transgender girls from participating in single-sex sports restricted to girls. □

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Uvalde report: 400 officers but 'egregiously poor' decisions

By **JAKE BLEIBERG** and **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) —

Nearly 400 law enforcement officials rushed to a mass shooting at a Uvalde elementary school, but "egregiously poor decision-making" resulted in more than an hour of chaos before the gunman who took 21 lives was finally confronted and killed, according to a damning investigative report released Sunday.

The nearly 80-page report was the first to criticize both state and federal law enforcement, and not just local authorities in the South Texas town for the bewildering inaction by heavily armed officers as a gunman fired inside a fourth-grade classroom at Robb Elementary School.

"At Robb Elementary, law enforcement responders failed to adhere to their active shooter training, and they failed to prioritize saving innocent lives over their own safety," the report said. The gunman fired approximately 142 rounds inside the building — and it is "almost certain" that at least 100 shots came before any officer entered, according to the report, which laid out in damning detail numerous failures. Among them:

— The commander of a Border Patrol tactical team waited for a bullet-proof



In this photo from surveillance video provided by the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District via the Austin American-Statesman, authorities respond to the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022.

Associated Press

shield and working master key for the classroom, which may have not even been needed, before entering the classroom.

— No one assumed command despite scores of officers, including Pete Arredondo, the Uvalde school district police chief, being on the scene.

— A Uvalde Police Department officer said he heard about 911 calls that had come inside from the classroom, and that his understanding was the officers on one side of the building knew there were victims trapped inside. Still, no one tried to breach the classroom. The report — the most complete account

yet of the hesitant and haphazard response to the May 24 massacre — was written by an investigative committee from the Texas House of Representatives and released to family members Sunday.

Family members of the victims in Uvalde received copies of the report Sunday before it was released to the public.

"It's a joke. They're a joke. They've got no business wearing a badge. None of them do," Vincent Salazar, grandfather of 11-year-old Layla Salazar, said Sunday. According to the report, 376 law enforcement officers massed at the school. The overwhelming majority

of those who responded were federal and state law enforcement. That included nearly 150 U.S. Border Patrol agents and 91 state police officials.

"Other than the attacker, the Committee did not find any 'villains' in the course of its investigation," the report said. "There is no one to whom we can attribute malice or ill motives. Instead, we found systemic failures and egregiously poor decision making."

The report noted that many of the hundreds of law enforcement responders who rushed to the school were better trained and equipped than the school district police — which the

head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, the state police force, previously faulted for not going into the room sooner.

"In this crisis, no responder seized the initiative to establish an incident command post," the report read. A spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety did not immediately return a request for comment Sunday.

The report followed weeks of closed-door interviews with more than 40 people, including witnesses and law enforcement who were on the scene of the shooting. Flowers that had been piled high in the city's central square had been removed as of Sunday, leaving a few stuffed animals scattered around the fountains alongside photos of some of the children who were killed.

No single officer has received as much scrutiny since the shooting as Pete Arredondo, the Uvalde school district police chief who resigned from his newly appointed seat on the City Council after the shooting. Arredondo told the committee he treated the shooter as "barricaded subject," according to the report, and defended never treating the scene as an active-shooter situation because he did not have visual contact with the gunman. □



In this April 20, 2020, photo, comedian Craig Robinson performs at the Laugh Factory comedy club in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

A man fired a gun inside a comedy club in North Carolina on Saturday night shortly after it was evacu-

ated and before actor and comedian Craig Robinson was set to perform, police said.

The shot was fired at about

Police: Charlotte comedy club empties before man fires gun

9 p.m. at The Comedy Zone in Charlotte, media outlets reported. No one was injured.

Club employees told WSOC-TV that the man, later identified by police as Omar McCombs, waved a gun around and told everyone to leave before the venue emptied out. About 50 customers had been inside.

"The suspect then discharged his weapon," Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said in a statement on Twitter. "There were no injuries and the suspect

was taken into custody."

McCombs, 36, was sent to the Mecklenburg County Jail early Sunday morning, according to an inmate database.

Robinson has starred in movies such as "Hot Tub Time Machine" as well as the American version of "The Office" television show. He said he was safe in a video posted Saturday night to his Instagram account. Charges listed for McCombs include assault by pointing a gun, discharging a firearm in the city, communicating

threats and possession of a firearm by a felon.

It's unclear if he has hired an attorney who can speak on his behalf. Investigators have not released a possible motive.

In a Sunday Instagram post, Robinson thanked the club's security and staff for quickly getting everyone to safety as well as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police for their "swift action" in arresting the alleged shooter. "Hopefully he gets the help he needs," Robinson wrote. "Thanks be to God no one was hurt." □

Pleas pile up in Italy for PM Draghi to rethink exit

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pleas were piling up Sunday in Italy aimed at persuading Premier Mario Draghi to stay in office instead of resigning as he tried to do last week after being let down by a populist coalition partner. Hundreds of mayors have signed an open letter. Union leaders and industrialists, who often have opposing agendas, have been united in pressing Draghi to keep on governing. Italy and other European nations are facing soaring energy costs, steep inflation, surging COVID-19 cases and the war in Ukraine. In addition, a severe drought is parching Italy.

By Sunday afternoon — three days after populist 5-Star Movement senators boycotted a confidence vote tied to a government energy relief bill — more than 80,000 citizens had signed a “Draghi stay” online petition, launched by former Premier Matteo Renzi, who heads a small centrist party in Draghi’s 17-month-old government. “Let’s mobilize ourselves in every way to bring back Draghi to Chigi Palace (the premier’s office),” Renzi tweeted.

The letter originally grouped



Italian Premier Mario Draghi addresses the Senate in Rome, Tuesday, June 21, 2022.

Associated Press

11 mayors, including from Rome and Milan, but soon gained support from several hundred mayors of cities and towns, state TV said Sunday. The mayors cited the problems of everyday citizens as some of the “good reasons” Draghi should stay put. Financial markets consider the former European Central Bank chief as a pillar of solid fiscal governance for Italy, which is receiving billions in European Union pandemic recovery funds.

If Draghi has been moved by the entreaties, he wasn’t saying.

The premier has been holed up in a countryside home mulling over what he’ll tell Parliament on Wednesday. President Sergio Mattarella,

who last week rebuffed Draghi’s resignation, told him to lay out the political situation before lawmakers. Clearly not budging was Giuseppe Conte, Draghi’s predecessor, who triggered the crisis by having his 5-Star lawmakers walk out of the Senate vote because it contained a provision to build an incinerator in trash-choked Rome that the populists oppose.

Depending on support from his coalition partners ranging from the left to the right, Draghi had been forging ahead with economic and other reforms that are a requirement for Italy to receive 200 billion euros (\$200 billion) in EU pandemic recovery funds.

His steadfast support for

Ukraine, including sending military aid despite grumbling by the populists, has earned him statesman status in Europe.

Conte, whose left-leaning ruling coalition crumbled in 2021 amid pandemic struggles, over the weekend refused to pledge unwavering support for Draghi’s national unity government. After huddling for hours with his squabbling Movement, Conte demanded that Draghi give the 5-Stars “guaranteed conditions of respect” and said his lawmakers could vote “from time to time” in favor of government measures.

Five-Star Sen. Gianmauro Dell’Olio insisted Sunday that if Draghi “wants to offer us peanuts, I don’t believe that it’s opportune for us to carry on with this government.”

Ultimately, Mattarella must decide what to do if Draghi on Wednesday insists on resigning.

Mattarella could dissolve Parliament, triggering an early election as soon as late September. He could also see if there is political support for a limited-agenda government to stay in place until Italian lawmakers pass the national budget, necessary by year’s end. □

Experts comb cargo plane crash site in north Greece; 8 dead

By COSTAS KANTOURIS

DEMETRIS NELLAS and

JOVANA GEC

Associated Press

PALAIIOCHORI, Greece

(AP) — Experts investigated a cargo plane crash in northern Greece on Sunday, finding no evidence of dangerous substances but saying there’s a lot of ordnance that the plane was carrying spread around the crash site. Serbia’s defense minister confirmed that all eight crew members died in the crash. The An-12 cargo plane from Serbia was being flown by a Ukrainian aviation crew before it smashed into fields be-

tween two Greek villages late Saturday. The plane crashed shortly before 11 p.m. about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Kavala International Airport.

Minutes before, the pilot had told air traffic controllers he had a problem with one engine and he had to make an emergency landing, officials said. He was directed to Kavala Airport but never made it there.

The fuselage of the Soviet-era four-engine turboprop dragged on the ground for 170 meters (nearly 190 yards) before it disintegrated. Locals reported seeing a fireball and hearing ex-



Debris of an Antonov cargo plane smolders in Palaiochori village in northern Greece, Sunday, July 17, 2022, after it reportedly crashed Saturday near the city of Kavala.

Associated Press

plosions for two hours after the crash. Drone footage showed that small fragments were all that is left of the plane. Serbian Defense Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic told a news conference Sunday that the plane’s eight crew members were

dead. He said the plane was carrying 11.5 tons of Serbian-made mortar ammunition to Bangladesh, which was the buyer. It had taken off from the Serbian city of Nis and had been due to make a stopover in Amman, Jordan. □

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Studies: France is a melting pot but discrimination lurks

By **JADE LE DELEY**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Two landmark new studies in France are bursting myths about immigration at a time when xenophobic far-right discourse has gained ground. They show that the children of immigrants are increasingly melting into French society but some with African and Asian backgrounds face persistent discrimination.

Karima Simmou, a 20-year-old French-Moroccan student at the prestigious Paris university Sciences Po, embodies the phenomenon. She comes from a working-class family of eight children, with a mother who raised the family and a father who worked as a miner in western France. She was pushed by her family to go to the elite school.

"As a child of immigrants my parents, from their experience, told me that I needed to do more than others to succeed," Simmou told The Associated Press.

Advocates who fight discrimination welcomed the new data published this month that gives a rare insight because France follows a universalist vision that doesn't differentiate citizens by ethnic groups. The surveys published by the state statistics agency and the French state Institute for Demographic Stud-



A woman dressed up as Marianne, a woman symbol of the French republic since the 1789 revolution, holds a French flag during a May Day demonstration in Marseille, southern France, May 1, 2022.

Associated Press

ies, Ined, provide national data and statistics about the path of immigrants to France, their children and — for the first time — their grandchildren. It's an updated and more extensive version of a similar survey made 10 years ago. It includes a representative sample of more than 27,000 people drawn from the national census who responded to extensive questions about topics such as family life, income and religion from July 2019 to November 2020.

One of the reports found that a large swath of

France's population has an immigrant ancestor — an estimated 32% of people under 60 — and that children and grandchildren of immigrants are increasingly integrated into French society.

Nonetheless, immigration isn't evenly spread across France. Patrick Simon, one of the Ined researchers, said that about 70% of France's population aged under 60 has no immigrant heritage over the past three generations and that ethnic diversity depends heavily on where in France people live.

The report brushed aside the "great replacement," a false claim propagated by some extreme-right figures that the white populations of France and other Western countries are being overrun by non-white immigrants.

"Population with immigrant backgrounds share a profound bond with the population who have no direct immigrant parentage. In every family, people have a less or more direct link with immigration," Simon told The AP.

Over the generations, the immigrant heritage is diluted,

the survey notes.

It found that 66% of people with at least one immigrant parent are married to people without recent immigrant heritage, while nine out of 10 people of France's third generation of immigrant families have only one or two immigrant grandparents.

French immigration covers a wide range of origins, partly reflecting the country's colonial history. Young generations with immigrant backgrounds tend to have North African or sub-Saharan roots while older ones tend to have European roots. The survey said 83% of people under 18 in France who have at least one immigrant parent trace their origins to countries outside Europe, especially Africa. In contrast, more than 90% of second-generation immigrants over age 60 have Italian, Spanish, Polish, Belgian, German or other European parents.

The children and grandchildren of immigrants from Africa and Asia are well integrated in the French educational system compared with their elders, according to another report. Data show they have increasingly higher education levels than their parents, though many struggle to attain comparable educational levels to French people without immigrant heritage. □



In this government handout photo provided by Mexico's Secretariat of the Navy, agents escort drug trafficker Rafael Caro Quintero, in Sinaloa state, Mexico, Friday, July 15, 2022, captured deep in the mountains of his home state.

Associated Press

By **MARÍA VERZA**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Drug

lord Rafael Caro Quintero, captured by Mexican forces, was notified this week-

Extradition process begins for Mexico drug lord wanted in U.S.

end that a process to extradite him to the United States for crimes including the murder of a DEA agent in 1985 has begun.

A Mexican federal official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to make statements confirmed Sunday to The Associated Press that the notification was made Saturday and took place virtually. A judge based in a Mexico City informed Caro Quintero, wanted in the United States for the torture and killing of DEA agent

Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in 1985, of the accusations against him. He is being held in a high-security prison 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of the capital.

Caro Quintero was one of the FBI's most wanted fugitives since he was released from a Mexican jail in 2013 on a technicality after being imprisoned for nearly three decades for the murder of Camarena and a Mexican pilot.

Saturday's notification was the first step in the legal process to extradite him to

the United States. Attorney General Merrick Garland said Friday that "immediate extradition" would be sought.

Now the U.S. government has 60 days to file a formal extradition request and provide evidence to support it. Then the judge handling the case will determine whether or not it proceeds.

During this period, Caro Quintero's lawyers will probably file appeals to try to delay the extradition process. □





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Aruba Tourism Authority is happy to contribute to Stimami Sterilisami

ORANJESTAD – Stimami Sterilisami as a foundation is not unknown in Aruba. In 2016, Bucuti & Tara started this foundation with the goal of confronting the problem of cats and dogs on the streets of Aruba, in a sustainable way. With this program, the cost of sterilization surgery becomes significantly reduced for the pet owners, as well as for the organizations which take care of our animals on the streets.

As a tourist destination, but also as a home for our people, it is extremely important to minimize the suffering of animals on the streets,

to relieve the visual hassle that animals on the streets cause, as well as avoid situations which can cause insecurity for the people of Aruba and our visitors.

From 2016, ATA forms part of this project with funds, together with Bucuti & Tara and TPEF. Many times ATA receives criticism regarding the problem of stray dogs and cats on the streets through various channels, and recognizes the importance of finding solutions for this. In 2020, because of the pandemic, both ATA and TPEF had to stop donating funds and opted to put this project on hold



temporarily. From 2022, both ATA and TPEF started donating funds back to the foundation Stimami Sterilisami [the name translates as Love me, Sterilize me].

Recently the foundation celebrated the achievement of 30,000 sterilizations from its beginning. ATA is thankful to all those who

participate in this project, and hopes to continue counting with the cooperation of our community to contribute to less cats and dogs on the streets. □

Small bus drivers demand fare increase They expect an answer before noon today

ORANJESTAD – Friday morning, small bus drivers came together and gathered in the parking lot of the Linear Park to march together, guided by the police, to the Bestuurskantoor – the government seat – to deliver a letter. The 'Autobus United Group' handed a petition to the government to increase the bus fare with 1 florin, because their expenses are becoming too high to manage.



diesel.

The drivers in their letter brought a proposal to increase the fare in accordance with the increase in the price of gasoline and

In their letter, they express that they are aware of a study conducted by the University of Aruba, under direction of the government, regarding the relation between the increase

in the price of fuel and an adjustment to the bus fare. This study will be completed in September 2022, but the drivers cannot wait that long. "We will be dead by then", one of the drivers expressed to the minister of Transportation, Integrity, Nature, and Elderly Affairs, Ursell Arends, who together with minister of Economic Affairs, Geoffrey Wever, met the drivers at the Bestuurskantoor on Friday morning.

The bus fare of 3 florin is no longer sustainable for the bus drivers, seeing the increase in the price of fuel



as well as other factors, with prices constantly going up, for example, bus insurance.

Minister Arends says that he is in favor of a fare increase, but must be aware that this will trigger other groups to come after and increase their prices also, like taxi drivers. "I hope that

this proposal that you are bringing is also something structural for us to consider and analyse. I have understanding for this because your cost of doing business is also drastically higher. We will analyze this and you can be sure we will give an answer in a definitive time", the minister declared. □



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The Ritz-Carlton Aruba celebrates Pride Month with a successful Pride Parade Fun Walk

Palm Beach - During the month of June the ladies and gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton Aruba commemorated 'Pride Month' celebrating a month of pride with activities and experiences for the employees as well as the guests to enjoy during their stay.

'Pride Month' a walk to celebrate, support and educate the community about the LGBTQ+ community. In the hours of the afternoon before the sunset, the ladies and gentlemen along with their family and friends had a fun time with Dj Big B.

Pride Month is celebrated worldwide in June, however due to certain unexpected circumstances including the weather conditions in June, the decision was made to adjust the format of the event Pride Parade Fun Walk and organized this the week thereafter, on the 8th of July 2022.



With the continuous global growth of the company, the focus is set on creating lasting relationships with diversity and inclusion, accepting everyone and putting people in the first place, which is a part of the company's culture.

On behalf of The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba we want to thank all the sponsors that made the first Pride Parade Fun Walk event possible, namely Elite Productions, Setar, Arubabank, RBC, Imsan, Fofoti, Creations Boutique and Clickprint. □



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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over



the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through

the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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Aruba shone brightly, winning various titles at the Agnes Universe beauty pageant



ORANJESTAD – The Chaz Modeling & Talent School recently sent four representatives for the international event Agnes Universe, organized in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. These representatives did a great job representing our island, winning different international titles.

The final night of the International Beauty and Talent Festival 2022, Agnes Universe enjoyed a beautiful presentation of our Aruban beauties, who surely represented our island well. Annabell Bislip won the main title in her category, where her beauty and talent stood

out. She was crowned Little Beautiful Universe 2022.

Thaheely Geerman, Mini Model Aruba, was the first finalist Mini Model Universe, and won the award for Fantasy Costume. Maya Gordon, Pre-Teen Model Aruba was crowned first finalist Pre-Teen Model Universe. Tanique Chan, Miss Teen Model Aruba won Miss Teen Tropical and also took home the award for best Fantasy Costume.

They arrived back in Aruba last week, triumphant with all their awards. It is expected that many



doors will be open for these beauties who managed to show their talent and enthusiasm, having a bright future ahead of them.

These models participated in such an event on the international level for the first time. "Chaz Modeling & Talent School are extremely

proud and happy with the presentation given by our students, and their parents, who gave so much dedication to their kids." According to Chaz Modeling, it wasn't an easy pageant, but the contestants managed to represent Aruba with dignity and give a great international presentation. □

Minister of Nature, Ursell Arends met with spearfishing community

"Policy is decided among the people and with the people. We are here to try to come to a way to manage this, and naturally the laws to support this, in a sustainable, responsible manner and in dialogue based on a vision in which nature is considered an equal partner in our community." Those were the words of the minister of Nature, Mr. Ursell Arends, as he started a meeting during the weekend together with a group of fishermen, to discuss specifically spearfishing.

Currently according to law spearfishing is not permitted. The activity is taking place solely because of a policy of tolerance which allows people who



have a permit to practice this activity, but under very strict laws – and according to the fishermen, these are dangerous.

After deliberating with the concerning departments

and stakeholders regarding spearfishing, Arends made the decision to regulate the activity through law instead of forbidding it.

According to Arends, there

is an opportunity to use the knowledge and experience of these fishermen to nature's advantage, and also to collect the necessary data to measure the impact – negative or positive – of policy and regula-

tion on our marine life and the quality of the water in our oceans.

Together with all relevant departments, Arends and his team heard and dialogued with the spearfishermen where they brought forward their positions and worries so that the government, in turn, could take these into consideration when drafting a spearfishing policy.

Arends said in a press release that they will continue the discussion together with a representative group named by the fishermen, to continue collaboration in order to reach a policy that both fishermen and environmentalists can live with. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Notion
 - 1 Edinburgh native
 - 5 Flight part
 - 10 Folded food
 - 11 Rotated
 - 13 From the U.S.

- DOWN**
- 1 Hide away
 - 2 Carved gem
 - 3 Mermaid's home
 - 4 Slow mover
 - 5 Hot, in a way
 - 6 Fixed, as a piano
 - 7 Gallery fill

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Saturday's answer

- 8 Mono-gram unit
- 9 Regret
- 12 Hate
- 16 Easy gait
- 21 Dolphin's cousin
- 22 Daily routines
- 23 Uncon-firmed
- 24 Dancer Duncan
- 25 Bakery buy
- 27 On the FBI's list
- 29 Michael of "Sleuth"
- 30 Almanac section
- 31 Flower girl, often
- 32 Bleating beasts
- 36 Parrot or puppy

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	40						41			

7-18

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-18

CRYPTOQUOTE

S I C G V D X V O H V I I C B D X V

Y F S G V N O V S F D X V H C N F S F Q .

— F V S I W V Q N L O O V D E O C F

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THREE THINGS CANNOT BE LONG HIDDEN: THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE TRUTH. — BUDDHA

As AI language skills grow, so do scientists' concerns



Research engineer Teven Le Scao, who helped create the new artificial intelligence language model called BLOOM, poses for a photo, Monday, July 11, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

The tech industry's latest artificial intelligence constructs can be pretty convincing if you ask them what it feels like to be a sentient computer, or maybe just a dinosaur or squirrel. But they're not so good — and sometimes dangerously bad — at handling other seemingly straightforward tasks. Take, for instance, GPT-3, a Microsoft-controlled system that can generate paragraphs of human-like text based on what it's learned from a vast database of digital books and online writings. It's considered one of the most advanced of a new generation of AI algorithms that can converse, generate readable text on demand and even produce novel images and video.

Among other things, GPT-3 can write up most any text you ask for — a cover letter for a zookeeping job, say, or a Shakespearean-style sonnet set on Mars. But when Pomona College professor Gary Smith asked it a simple but nonsensical question about walking upstairs, GPT-3 muffed it.

"Yes, it is safe to walk upstairs on your hands if you wash them first," the AI replied.

These powerful and power-chugging AI systems, technically known as "large language models" because they've been trained on a huge body of text and other media, are already get-

ting baked into customer service chatbots, Google searches and "auto-complete" email features that finish your sentences for you. But most of the tech companies that built them have been secretive about their inner workings, making it hard for outsiders to understand the flaws that can make them a source of misinformation, racism and other harms.

"They're very good at writing text with the proficiency of human beings," said Teven Le Scao, a research engineer at the AI startup Hugging Face. "Something they're not very good at is being factual. It looks very coherent. It's almost true. But it's often wrong."

That's one reason a coalition of AI researchers coled by Le Scao — with help from the French government — launched a new large language model Tuesday that's supposed to serve as an antidote to closed systems such as GPT-3. The group is called BigScience and their model is BLOOM, for the BigScience Large Open-science Open-access Multilingual Language Model. Its main breakthrough is that it works across 46 languages, including Arabic, Spanish and French — unlike most systems that are focused on English or Chinese.

It's not just Le Scao's group aiming to open up the black box of AI language models. Big Tech company Meta, the parent of Facebook and Instagram, is also

calling for a more open approach as it tries to catch up to the systems built by Google and OpenAI, the company that runs GPT-3. "We've seen announcement after announcement of people doing this kind of work, but with very little transparency, very little ability for people to really look under the hood and peek into how these models work," said Joelle Pineau, managing director of Meta AI.

Competitive pressure to build the most eloquent or informative system — and profit from its applications — is one of the reasons that most tech companies keep a tight lid on them and don't collaborate on community norms, said Percy Liang, an associate computer science professor at Stanford who directs its Center for Research on Foundation Models.

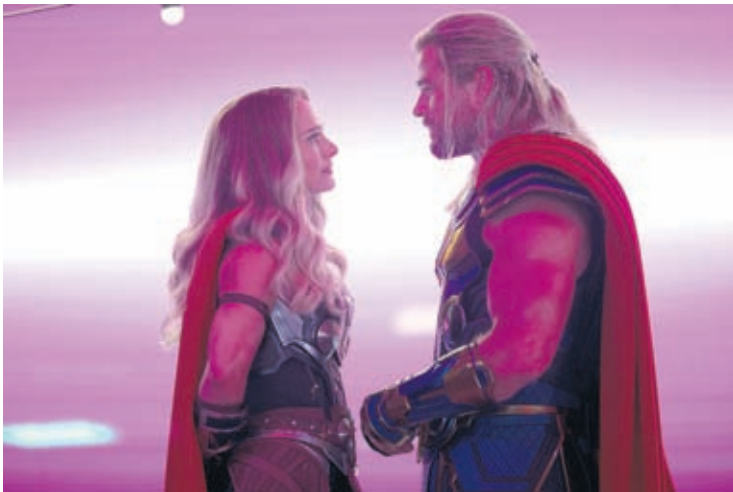
"For some companies this is their secret sauce," Liang said. But they are often also worried that losing control could lead to irresponsible uses. As AI systems are increasingly able to write health advice websites, high school term papers or political screeds, misinformation can proliferate and it will get harder to know what's coming from a human or a computer.

Meta recently launched a new language model called OPT-175B that uses publicly available data — from heated commentary on Reddit forums to the archive of U.S. patent records and a trove of emails from the Enron corporate scandal.

Meta says its openness about the data, code and research logbooks makes it easier for outside researchers to help identify and mitigate the bias and toxicity that it picks up by ingesting how real people write and communicate.

"It is hard to do this. We are opening ourselves for huge criticism. We know the model will say things we won't be proud of," Pineau said. □

'Thor' stays No. 1, while 'Crawdads' opens strong



This image released by Marvel Studios shows Natalie Portman, left, and Chris Hemsworth in a scene from "Thor: Love and Thunder."

Associated Press

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Marvel sequel "Thor: Love & Thunder" dropped a hefty 68% in its second weekend of release but still held the top spot at the box office, according to studio estimates Sunday, while the bestseller adaptation "Where the Crawdads Sing" debuted with a better-than-expected \$17 million. Taika Waititi's "Love and Thunder" led all films with an estimated \$46 million, bringing its two-week global total to \$498 million. The sizable decline is more than most Marvel films but in line with recent releases from the Walt Disney Co. superhero studio, including "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (68%), "Black Widow" (68%) and "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" (67%).

"Love and Thunder" also faced a trio of newcomers, though none came close to toppling Chris Hemsworth's god of thunder. Best among them was Sony Pictures' "Where the Crawdads Sing," Olivia Newman's adaptation of Delia Owens' 2018 North Carolina-set novel. It opened well despite weak reviews (36% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes). The Reese Witherspoon-produced mystery stars Daisy Edgar-Jones as a woman who raised herself in the coastal Carolina marshlands and focuses on a murder investigation of a local celebrity. Moviegoers liked it better than critics, giving it an A- CinemaScore. It was a particularly good result for a page-to-screen drama, and another sign that adult audiences — who have also helped fuel the success of "Top Gun: Maverick" (still in fourth place with \$12 million in its eighth weekend) and "Elvis" (up to \$106.2 million after four weeks) — are nearly all the way back to pre-pandemic levels after going largely absent for much of the last two-plus years.

Appealing to a similar demographic, Focus Features' "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris," starring Lesley Manville as a London cleaner who pines for a Dior dress, also opened strongly, with \$1.9 million in 980 theaters. Said Focus distribution chief Lisa Bunnell: "Older movie-goers are returning to enjoy the in-theater experience."

The Minions made it difficult for a new family entry: "Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank." The Paramount Pictures animated release, loosely adapted from Mel Brooks' "Blazing Saddles," launched with a modest \$6.3 million. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday. □

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Smith rallies to beat McIlroy at British Open for 1st major

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)

— Cameron Smith charged his way into history on the Old Course, a Sunday stunner at St. Andrews that sent the Australian to his first major by overcoming Rory McIlroy to win the British Open. The stage was set for McIlroy to end his eight-year drought in the majors and cap off a week of celebration at the home of golf in the 150th Open.

Instead, Smith stole the show by running off five straight birdies to start the back nine and delivering more clutch moments at the end. His 8-under 64 was the lowest final round by a champion in the 30 times golf's oldest championship has been played at St. Andrews.

Smith won by one shot over Cameron Young, who holed a 15-foot eagle putt on the final hole to ever-so-briefly tie for the lead.

It wasn't enough, and neither was anything McIlroy could muster.

McIlroy couldn't make a putt early. He couldn't hit it close enough late. His last good chance was a 15-foot birdie attempt on the scary Road Hole at No. 17, and it narrowly missed to the left.

Smith, who saved par on the 17th with a 10-foot putt, was at the front of the 18th green with his tee shot. From 80 feet away, his pace up



Cameron Smith, of Australia, holds the claret jug trophy as he poses for photographers on the 18th green after winning the British Open golf Championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, Sunday July 17, 2022.

Associated Press

the slope and toward the cup was close to perfect, leaving him a tap-in birdie to finish at 20-under 268.

Smith matched the major championship record to par, last reached by Dustin Johnson in the 2020 Masters held in November.

McIlroy needed eagle to tie him, and his chip through the Valley of Sin had no chance. He missed the birdie and wound up with a 70 to finish third.

Smith is the first Australian to win at St. Andrews since Kel Nagle in 1960, when he topped a rising American star named Arnold Palmer, the people's choice.

That's what McIlroy is now, and all day there was an energy along the humps and hollows of the Old Course, all of them waiting to celebrate McIlroy as an Open champion at St. Andrews.

He gave them little to cheer — two birdies, 16 pars, more disappointment.

"The putter went cold on me," McIlroy said. "When both Camerons — especially Smith — went on that run on the back nine, I had to dig deep to make birdies. And I just couldn't. I got beaten by the better player this week. To go out and shoot 64 to win the Open

Championship at St. Andrews is a hell of a showing. Hats off to Cam."

Under that hat is a mullet the 28-year-old Aussie has been growing for the last few years, and now he has a far greater identity: champion golfer of the year — at St. Andrews, no less.

He won for the third time this year — most recently The Players Championship — and moves to No. 2 in the world behind Masters champion Scottie Scheffler. Smith is the first Australian to win the Open since Greg Norman in 1993 at Royal St. George's. Nor-

man was asked not to return this year — there was no indication he was coming — because of his Saudi-funded LIV Golf that has offered millions to attract players like Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau, major champions who finished in the top 10. But this day belonged to Smith and that magical putter.

He started the final round four shots behind and was still three behind when he made the turn. McIlroy was playing controlled golf, his only birdie a two-putt from 18 feet on the par-5 fifth. Viktor Hovland, who started the final round tied with McIlroy, was never a factor. He didn't make his first birdie until the 12th hole and closed with a 74.

That run by Smith on the back nine is now part of Open lore.

He hit a nifty pitch to 5 feet for birdie on the short 10th. He was bold to a back pin on the par-3 11th and holed a 15-foot birdie, and he birdied the next two holes from about that length. His fifth in a row was a putt from 90 feet on the par-5 14th, over a huge mound and down the slope to tap-in range that gave him the lead for the first time.

McIlroy couldn't catch up. His lag putting was terrific. That wasn't what he needed. And he got no help from Smith, whose one missed shot set up his biggest challenge. □



Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Liam Hendriks reacts after striking out Cleveland Guardians' Nolan Jones during the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, July 13, 2022, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Houston's Justin Verlander, the

Yankees' Gerrit Cole and Atlanta's Max Fried won't

Hendriks, Romano, Williams, France added to All-Star rosters

be active for the All-Star Game, along with the Angels' Mike Trout, after weekend starts.

Relievers Liam Hendriks of the Chicago White Sox, Jordan Romano of Toronto and Devin Williams of Milwaukee and Seattle first baseman Ty France replaced them on the active rosters for Tuesday's game at Dodger Stadium, Major League Baseball said Sunday.

About a dozen players have changed from the original rosters announced

July 6 and 8.

Los Angeles Dodgers left-hander Tyler Anderson, Miami first baseman Garrett Cooper, San Diego infielder Jake Cronenworth, San Francisco left-hander Carlos Rodón, Toronto infielder Santiago Espinal, Boston designated hitter J.D. Martinez, Atlanta third baseman Austin Riley and Texas shortstop Corey Seager were among previous additions.

Houston second baseman Jose Altuve, Astros DH Yordan Álvarez, St. Louis third

baseman Nolan Arenado, Miami second baseman Jazz Chisholm Jr., Milwaukee closer Josh Hader, Philadelphia DH Bryce Harper, Rodón and Toronto outfielder George Springer were among those who dropped out, most of them because of injuries.

Altuve was replaced in the starting lineup by Cleveland's Andrés Giménez, Chisholm by the New York Mets' Jeff McNeil, Harper by Atlanta's William Contreras and Trout by Minnesota's Byron Buxton. □

Philipsen wins Tour stage, Vingegaard keeps lead, Roglic out

CARCASSONNE, France

(AP) — Jasper Philipsen of Belgium braved a heat wave to win the 15th stage of the Tour de France in a sprint on Sunday as Jonas Vingegaard kept the leader's yellow jersey.

Primož Roglič, the 2020 runner-up and a key teammate for Vingegaard, abandoned the race before the start on Sunday because of injuries he previously sustained in this year's edition.

Philipsen beat points leader Wout van Aert and Mads Pedersen on the line to win a Tour stage for the first time.

"It makes it super unbelievable. I know what losing is like in the Tour de France. I was close many, many times," Philipsen said. "But that it worked out today, it's unbelievable."

Philipsen was second behind Van Aert in the fourth stage of this year's race.

"It's been a massive search for this victory and we worked really hard for it," said Philipsen, holding back tears. "I knew I had good legs, but we just had to wait until the right opportunity."

Benjamin Thomas had tried to attack for the first win by a French rider on this year's Tour but was caught on the final stretch.

Faced with temperatures peaking at around 40 degrees Celsius (104 F), organizers deployed measures to deal with extreme heat. They relaxed the rules on riders' refreshments and the maximum time to complete the stage, which at 202.5 kilometers (126 miles) was the joint second-longest of this year's Tour. Environmental protesters blocked the road at one point and were quickly removed.

Vingegaard's lead remains unchanged at 2 minutes, 22 seconds over 2020 and '21 Tour winner Tadej Pogačar of Slovenia after they both finished in the lead group. However, the Danish rider had to recover from a fall and he has lost two of his Jumbo-Visma teammates, including Roglič. That leaves Vingegaard with re-



Stage winner Belgium's Jasper Philipsen, front, cross the finish line ahead of third place Denmark's Mads Pedersen, half hidden, in the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 202.5 kilometers (125.5 miles) with start in Rodez and finish in Carcassonne, France, Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Associated Press

duced support in the peloton as the race enters the Pyrenees following the rest day on Monday.

Roglič did not start the stage following injuries he sustained on stage five when he crashed into a hay bale which had been knocked into the road by a motorbike. Roglič reset his own dislocated shoulder on the side of the road and had been racing in pain ever since. Another Jumbo-Visma rider, Steven Kruijswijk, was taken away in an ambulance following a fall. Two more riders, Magnus Cort and stage-six winner Simon Clarke, withdrew from the race after testing positive for the coronavirus. Eight riders have left the race so far because of the virus. □

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creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine

your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, very to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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